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Defense bill may flow money to Silicon Valley

Robert Mullins

Silicon Valley companies stand to get some business from the U.S. government in a defense appropriations bill signed Wednesday by President Bush.

Some of the \$355.1 billion in new federal spending may go to valley tech firms with technology that can help fight the war on terrorism, says U.S. Rep. Mike Honda, a San Jose Democrat.

Budget items with a Silicon Valley tie include:

- \$4.2 million for a new laser weapon that enables target identification at greater distances than is presently possible. Intevac, a Santa Clara company, produces the new laser technology.
- \$3.4 million for improved tuners in U.S. Navy fighter aircraft. A Morgan Hill company specializes in the technology.
- \$7 million for a consortium of companies making improved display technology for computer equipment deployed on battlefields. Companies with valley operations involved in this technology include Applied Materials, IBM, Philips.

"This defense bill gives the federal government the necessary resources to continue to fight the war against terrorism," says Mr. Honda. "We will increase national security by allowing the military to continue to take advantage of technological advancements, many of which are developed in Silicon Valley."

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